

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1099

By Harrison

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Donna Linkous on her selection as Teacher of the Year at Mount Carmel Elementary School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Donna Linkous is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Donna Linkous has recently been selected Teacher of the Year by Mount Carmel Elementary School, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Linkous received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from East Tennessee State University (ETSU) in 1975, adding teaching certification for physical education in 1976 and health in 1991; she has completed additional coursework at both ETSU and Cumberland University; and

WHEREAS, employed by Hawkins County Schools since 1978, Donna Linkous has served with acumen and alacrity as the physical education teacher at Mount Carmel since 1992, while also undertaking the additional responsibility of managing the computer lab; and

WHEREAS, beginning her teaching career at St. Dominic's Elementary School in 1975 as a part-time teacher, Ms. Linkous began her tenure with Hawkins County Schools at Rogersville High School as a physical education teacher, cheerleader sponsor, and coach of the volleyball, track, and softball teams, winning a district tournament title, and as assistant coach of the basketball team; and

WHEREAS, transferring to Church Hill Middle School in 1980, she taught physical education and coached girls' volleyball, basketball, softball, and track; her teams won several

Hawkins County championships in basketball and were undefeated for two seasons; she also established an intramural program, organized and directed the Hawkins County Elementary and Middle School Track Meet, and drove the bus for athletic events; and

WHEREAS, accepting a position at Volunteer High School in 1987, Ms. Linkous taught biology, health, adult living, and physical education, in addition to coaching volleyball and softball; she was named 1987 Volleyball Coach of the Year for leading her team to a third-place finish at the state tournament, and her team won a district tournament title in softball; and

WHEREAS, since arriving at Mount Carmel Elementary in 1992, Donna Linkous has established the Accelerated Reader program, served as the SACS committee chair, been the TCAP coordinator, been a team leader on the School Safety Committee, and served on the committee to develop a county-wide Wellness Policy; and

WHEREAS, a multi-talented woman, she has organized numerous student events, including a Guinness Speed Stack World Record, the rider pick-up procedures, and the annual Jump Rope for Heart Event for the last eighteen years, which has raised an average of \$2,500 per year; and

WHEREAS, Donna Linkous is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated professional in the field of education, Ms. Linkous is a member of the National Education Association, the Tennessee Education Association, and the Hawkins County Education Association, as well as the Tennessee Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance; and

WHEREAS, active in her community, Donna Linkous is a faithful member of Liberty Hill Evangelical Methodist Church where she serves as the Youth Sunday School teacher, Bible School Director, Bible School teacher, and Christmas Play director; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Linkous truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Donna Linkous truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Donna Linkous on being chosen as Teacher of the Year at Mount Carmel Elementary School, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.